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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES
OF
JOHN McCONE AS DIRECTOR
OF THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
(IN THE CABINET ROOM)

MR. McCONE: Mr. President, I very deeply appreciate the confidence you have expressed in me by this appointment. I will assure you that I will discharge this office to the very best of my ability. I am not unmindful of the very difficult task it will be, following in the footsteps of Allen Dulles, whose record in this area you so correctly and fully outlined yesterday.

However, I am encouraged and given hope by the fact that within the last few weeks I have come to know a great many people in the CIA, and I find them men of both great dedication and unusual ability -- and with their support I think that I can meet your expectations.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to say what an honor it is and what a pleasure it is to have Mr. Mc Cone back in the national service.

This appointment, I think, that he was willing to take it, indicates how important it is, and how important I feel it is, as well as members of the government and Members of Congress believe it to be.

He has not only the responsibility as Director of CIA, but also coordinating the work of all the Intelligence community, and I know that he will give his attention to both these functions upon which so much of our security depends.

We want to welcome you here and to say that you are now living on the bull's eye, and I welcome you to that spot.

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White House